

May 14th, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852


To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not remove any current labeling requirements for irradiated food. The current disclosure statement conveys meaningful information, which I find important, truthful and nonmisleading. I find the current radiation disclosure informational and not as a warning. In fact, I would encourage continued use of these terms and wordings, as well as regulations requiring larger statements of this practiced on food labels, including fruits and vegetables, and mixed foods. With this labeling I feel satisfactorily informed about the handling of such foods.

I recommend prominent labeling; put a large, easily recognized and understood radura symbol on it, and use the terms "irradiation" or "irradiated". Make the labels clearer. I feel the absence of these statements would be misleading since irradiation changes spoilage qualities. I cook regularly and need to know what to expect of my food. Alternative terms, such as "cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" should not be used.

Please do not allow the labeling to expire at a specific date in the future. It is important to me to know how the food has been handled at any point in it's life. I have had direct experience with the current labeling, it has been prevalent at my local market, and it has helped me make wise choices about my purchasing. It does not discourage the use of the foods, it simply states it's process. I fully understand that irradiation effects the number of harmful microorganisms in and on my food. In today's market, this is important to know, and to know clearly!! Make it big!!

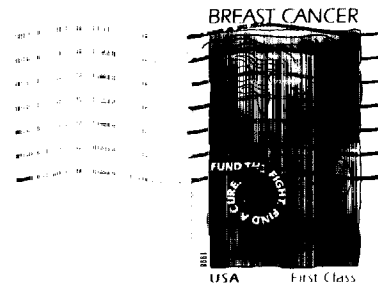
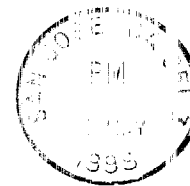
Thank you


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cc: President Clinton, Vice-President Gore, Congressman Sam Farr, Senator Boxer, and Senator Feinstein.



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